



5 February 2025

Email:

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Request No:** 34971-24  
**Subject:** NIAS Staff Access NI Certification  
**Date Received:** 20/11/2024  
**Date of Monitoring:** 21/11/2024

Thank you for your request for information received on 20<sup>th</sup> November which was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) Health and Social Care Trust has now completed its search for the information you requested and that is detailed below.

For the purposes of this request front line staff are defined as those having direct contact with casualties/patients, family and/or friends of casualties/patients.	
1. (a) Are front line NIAS staff required to hold Access NI certification? (b) If not, has NIAS considered introducing this?	On receipt of a conditional offer of employment, applicants for frontline posts are required to undergo an enhanced Access NI check as part of the pre-employment checks.
2. Does NIAS require companies/charities providing a service for or on behalf of NIAS to ensure that all front line staff hold current AccessNI certification?	Yes, NIAS does require companies providing a service for or on behalf of NIAS to hold current AccessNI Certification.  The Framework Agreement for Non-Emergency Transport Service for use of independent providers requires compliance with Enhanced Disclosure Certification and Access NI.
3. If not, has NIAS considered introducing this requirement?	Please refer to Answer 2 above.

I hope the above fully assists you.

Please note that, under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations, if you wish to publish or otherwise use this information besides for your own means, you will need to seek our permission to do so.



If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Director of Planning, Performance and Corporate Services, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) HSC Trust, Site 30, Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 8SG.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the Trust has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

**Email:** [ni@ico.org.uk](mailto:ni@ico.org.uk)  
**Website:** [ICO Website](#)  
**Post:** Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF  
**Telephone:** 028 9027 8757 or 0303 123 1114 (Belfast based Office)

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that NIAS replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <https://nias.hscni.net> Personal details in respect of your request will have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

Yours sincerely

*(not signed – issued by email)*

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**Information Governance Team**